[23rd November 1955

Allegation against the Travancore-Cochin State Forest staff

* 2787 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a representation from Sri Ayyakannu of Cumbum, alleging that the Forest Staff of the Travancore-Cochin State molested on 30th April 1955, some girls of Cumbum who crossed the border for gathering firewood;

(*b*) whether the matter was reported to the Travancore-Cochin State Government by the State Government; and

(*c*) whether any reply has been received from Travancore-Cochin State Government?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (*a*) The Government have not received any such representation. It is learnt on enquiry that a person named Thangappan reported at the Cumbum Police Station that on the 30th of April last certain Forest officials of the Travancore-Cochin State had raped a few women who had gone from Cumbum to a place known as Virushamarathakandam which is within the Travancore-Cochin State for gathering firewood. The Cumbum Police registered a case under Section 376, Indian Penal Code, and as the incident was alleged to have occurred within the Travancore-Cochin limits, they transferred the case to Vandipariyar Police Station for investigation.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) Does not arise.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: I have received representations that the women who went from Cumbum were raped and I have forwarded those representations to the Government and I requested them to make representations to the Government of Travancore-Cochin State for taking suitable action if the facts stated in the representations proved correct. May I know what action was taken by the Government in the matter?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: As I already stated, an enquiry was made into this matter and it was found that the complaint was made 20 days after the alleged incident. It was also admitted by Mr. Thangappan in the statement given to the Police in Travancore-Cochin State that he was waylaid by a number of Kallars and was forced to give the complaint. Under these circumstances the Government thought that no useful purpose would be served by addressing the Travancore-Cochin Government.

Social Welfare Centre at Kalpetta

10–10 a.m. * 2788 *Q.*—SRI M. K. PADMAPRABHA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the circumstances that made the Doctor at the Kalpetta Social Welfare Centre to resign suddenly; and

(*b*) the authorities responsible for (i) the payment of salaries to the staff and (ii) the regular conduct of the Centre?